

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST I

NATURE OF WORK

This is entry-level environmental health and science work.

Work involves responsibility for learning to: issue environmental health permits; review scientific plans; review environmental treatment systems; investigate illness outbreaks; assist in risk assessments; conduct sampling; model emissions; conduct inspections and investigations; operate specialized field equipment; issue enforcement notices; prepare reports on findings of investigations; provide on-site pollution prevention and HACCP consultation; and serve as an emergency responder. Independent judgment and personal initiative is expected within the framework of supervisory guidance and established policies. Supervision is received from a professional or an administrative superior and reviewed through written reports, review of work projects and accomplishments.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Assists in and learns to review air and special waste; Body Art Establishment; Food Establishment; Standard On-site Waste Water Treatment System; Swimming Pool; and Private Water Well permits to determine compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Assists in reviewing scientific studies, sampling strategies, waste characterization plans, laboratory analysis, and environmental remediation plans, intended to achieve compliance with laws or regulations on food, water, wastewater, air, soil or solid, special or hazardous waste.

Gathers data to assist senior staff in conducting environmental health risk assessments and computer modeling of air, water, waste, wastewater, and soil to identify public health and environmental impact.

Under close guidance, learns to conduct and then conducts various environmental health inspections/investigations to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Assists in collecting samples and assuring "chain of custody."

Monitors compliance schedules and advises senior staff of conditions.

Learns to issue and issues enforcement notices.

Assists in providing on-site assessments of environmental hazards, pollution prevention options, and critical control points in food handling.

Assists at hazardous waste collections for households and small businesses.

Assists in serving as an emergency responder.

Prepares written reports of inspections and investigations.

Assists in operating and maintaining specialized environmental monitoring field equipment.

Assists senior staff in the investigation of outbreaks of illness or environmental exposure.

Performs related work as required.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Some knowledge of the principles and practices of science, risk assessment and communication, pollution prevention, hazard analysis of critical control points, and/or toxicology as they apply to public/environmental health and environmental quality.

Some knowledge of federal, state and local laws pertaining to environmental quality and environmental public health.

Ability to use word processing, spreadsheet, database, graphing, computer modeling, and/or GIS software.

Ability to use mathematics and statistical analysis to analyze data, accurately interpret results, and summarize the analysis into report format.

Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers and the general public.

DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in environmental science, environmental health, environmental engineering, or biological, chemical or physical sciences; plus some experience in progressively responsible environmental science work.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in environmental science, environmental health, environmental engineering, or biological, chemical or physical sciences; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the desirable knowledge, abilities and skills.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Possession of a valid State of Nebraska Operator's License when operating a vehicle may be necessary to the satisfactory performance of assigned duties for some positions within this classification.

Approved by: _____
Department Head

Personnel Director

10/79

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